(c) whether the proposed law will also include the maritime exclusive economic zone and will be uniformly applicable to the foreigner and Non-Resident Indians to prevent biopiracy; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) In order to protect the biodiversity of the country, the Government is formulating a legislation on biodiversity with the broad objectives of conservation and sustainable utilisation of biodiversity and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources. All efforts are being made to introduce the Bill in the Parliment soon.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Involvement of State Governments in Exports

1073. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up a plan to involve the various State Governments to facilitate growth and bring about quantum jump in exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments have involved themselves in the exercise;

(d) whether adequate incentives would be given to the State Governments in order to motivate their efforts in this direction; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (e) The Centre seeks participation of States in export promotion by way of provision of adequate and quality infrastructure, input support, relief from imposts, removal of procedural and other constraints etc. States are also consulted on matters which are specific to them. In the Exim policy, there is a provision to recognise one agency of the State Government as Export House in relaxation of the criterion.

An Export Promotion Industrial Parks Scheme (EPIP) is being implemented in the country since 1993-94 in co-operation with the State Governments. Under this scheme 20 EPIPs have been approved for different States all over

the country. A total sum of Rs. 152.26 crores has been released so far for the approved EPIPs.

A Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme is also being implemented by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry under which assistance is provided to States and their agencies for strengthening the infrastructure and removal of bottlenecks to exports. An amount of Rs. 136.05 crores has been sanctioned so far under the scheme for a total number of 67 projects/works.

Various Commodity Boards are implementing schemes for providing incentives and assistance for exports through the State Governments.

National Tobacco Policy

1074. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a National Tobacco Policy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the strategy followed or proposed to publicly hold tobacco industry accountable for the negative impact of tobacco on health, economics and environment?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The aim of a National Tobacco Policy and the strategy to control the industry is sought to be attained through the implementation of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975 (4 of 1975) to provide for the development, under the control of the Union, of the tobacco industry. Obligations arising out of the declaration of the International Conference on Global Tobacco Control Law await adoption.

Industrial Development

1075. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme or programme for industrial development in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith funds allocated, State-wise; and

(c) the details of industrial development which has taken place due to the liberalisation policy being implemented since 1998 with State-wise break-up[9]